UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1998/SR.44
30 June 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session for 1998

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 44th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 28 July 1998, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. CHOWDHURY (Vice-President)	(Bangladesh)
(later)	Mr. SYCHOU (Vice-President)	(Belarus)

CONTENTS

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued)

(f) INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000 (continued)

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

/...

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

98-81152 (E)

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS:

(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

(b) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(c) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(d) NARCOTIC DRUGS

(e) UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (continued)

(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE ROLE OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING, IN PARTICULAR, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued) (E/1998/L.30)

(f) INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE, 2000 (continued) (E/1998/52; E/1998/L.31)

Mr. SURYO-DI-PURO (Observer for Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/1998/L.30 on malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera. The draft resolution recognized that efforts to combat those diseases were an important element of joint efforts to eradicate poverty and promote development. Accordingly, it appealed to development partners to provide developing countries with financial, medical and technical assistance for that purpose. He hoped that all delegations, particularly those of developed countries, would support the draft resolution.

Ms. SIBAL (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)), speaking on agenda item 7(f), said she hoped that the programme of action for the International Year for the Culture of Peace would have a special chapter on woman and armed conflict and that that chapter would include the eleven recommended actions contained in draft resolution IV, section II D, of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1998/27, pp. 19-20). It further hoped that the issue of women and the promotion of a culture of peace would be included in the mid-decade review of the Beijing follow-up, to be held in the year 2000.

Discussions at the February 1998 session of the Commission on Social Development had highlighted the need to respect each nation's culture in the context of development activities. UNESCO viewed culture as a basic variable in the analysis of poverty and actions for poverty elimination. In that respect, an emphasis was placed on the non-economic causes of poverty, such as ethnic conflict and discrimination.

The PRESIDENT, speaking as the representative of Bangladesh, introduced draft resolution E/1998/L.31. He said that the original sponsors of

the draft resolution had been joined by Cape Verde, Guatemala, Mali, Morocco, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay. The sponsors believed that the draft resolution would make a constructive contribution to activities for the International Year for the Culture of Peace and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1998/L.28 and L.29)

Mr. SURYO-DI-PURO (Observer for Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution E/1998/L.28 on the declaration of the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism. Since the observance of such a year would foster progress towards the goals of Agenda 21, he hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

He then introduced draft resolution E/1998/L.29 on protection against products harmful to health and the environment. The draft resolution was based on the Council's consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the subject (A/53/156-E/1998/78). It was generally understood that the use of chemicals was necessary; the challenge was to make that use environmentally sound, cost-effective and sustainable. Fortunately, there was growing evidence that chemicals could be used with a high degree of safety, particularly through the life-cycle approach, clean technologies and research on safer substitutions. After highlighting the main points of the draft resolution, he invited delegations to submit their suggestions and comments in informal consultations.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1998/59)

(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (A/53/38 (Part I); E/1998/10, E/1998/27 and Corr.1, E/1998/46 and E/1998/53; E/1998/NGO/2; E/CN.6/1998/3)

(b) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1998/26; E/1998/NGO/3)

(c) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (E/1998/30 and Corr.1)

(d) NARCOTIC DRUGS (E/1998/28, A/53/129-E/1998/58; E/INCB/1997/1)

(e) UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (E/1998/7 and 93)

Ms. KING (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women) said that the Council's coordination segment had the opportunity to expand the issues of women's equality and human rights beyond the specialized realm of women-specific expertise to make them an integral part of all human rights activities in the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action was

an essential part of the integrated follow-up to all United Nations conferences.

The note by the Secretary-General on the mid-term review of the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/1998/10), had been submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, which had prepared a draft resolution for adoption by the Council. The Committee for Programme and Coordination had also considered the document; its comments were included in the report on its thirty-eighth session (A/53/16 (Part I)).

The Secretary-General's report to the Council on the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (E/1998/53) provided information designed to facilitate the Council's decision-making and should be read in conjunction with the other two annual reports submitted, respectively, to the Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly. Document E/1998/53 reported on the recent activities of the Commission on the Status of Women, the other functional commissions, the regional commissions and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

Both reports indicated that Member States and the United Nations system continued to apply a dual strategy of implementing actions to address the Platform's 12 critical areas of concern, on the one hand, and mainstreaming the gender perspective to ensure that women's concerns were addressed explicitly and systematically in all sectoral areas, on the other. That strategy would make it possible to design, implement and monitor all policies and programmes in a way that improved outcomes for women and, ultimately, to achieve gender equality.

Ms. ERTÜRK (Director, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)) introduced the report on the eighteenth session of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees (E/1998/46). At that session, the Board had approved a modest budget of $495,000 for core research and training programmes in 1998-1999. Despite its small budget, the Institute's work programme was ambitious and would contribute significantly to global United Nations efforts towards gender equality. Fundamental administrative measures had been undertaken to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Nevertheless, she feared that those efforts would be insufficient to ensure the Institute's sustainable productivity. Since 1991, the Institute's very existence had been challenged by two types of issues: the nature and level of

funding, and the comparative advantage of the Institute's work within the United Nations system. INSTRAW was funded exclusively by voluntary contributions, which had declined steadily over the years. If the funds projected for 1999 were not received, the implementation of the Institute's work programme would be seriously jeopardized. INSTRAW had never had the secure financial base it needed to recruit sufficient staff to build a strong strategic work programme. Thus, it had had to work within a comparative disadvantage.

Because INSTRAW had a very broad mandate, it had never been able to produce a focused strategic plan outlining its comparative advantage within the United Nations system. Consequently, despite its invaluable contributions in the areas of unpaid work, statistics and indicators and training on environment and sustainable development, its outputs were largely fragmented and dispersed. To facilitate the development of a strategic work plan, INSTRAW intended to hold an inter-agency brainstorming workshop with the chief United Nations entities that dealt with gender issues, as well as an international dialogue on research priorities. Both of those activities would depend on the availability of funds. She would welcome practical guidance from the Council on how INSTRAW could overcome its difficulties. She hoped that all States, recalling the responsibilities that had prompted them to establish INSTRAW, would expand their financial and political support to strengthen the Institute's capacity to perform as a productive member of the United Nations system.

Mr. McCLEAN (Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) introduced the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (A/53/129-E/1998/58). As noted in paragraph 4 of the report, the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control had requested the United Nations International Drug-Control Programme (UNDCP) to organize an external evaluation of the System-Wide Action Plan in 1998. The results of that evaluation would be submitted to the Subcommittee at its September 1998 session. The main item for discussion at that session would be the future direction to be taken by the System-Wide Action Plan, particularly in the light of United Nations reform. The Secretary-General's report also contained information on two additional action plans to be included in the System-Wide Action Plan: one on drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing, and the other on drug abuse and trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Mr. GHODSE (President, International Narcotics Control Board (INCB))

said that the most recent report of INCB (E/INCB/1997/1) had been considered by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its forty-first session. The follow-up to the General Assembly's recent special session on the world drug problem, in which INCB had participated, would be crucial for combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Governments should begin immediately to implement action plans to translate their high-level political commitments into reality. In analyzing the results of such actions, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should acknowledge and support achievements but should also identify shortcomings and offer constructive criticism. The Board would cooperate with the Commission in that task and would use the action plan adopted by the General Assembly as a checklist for assessing the progress made and the problems encountered by Governments in implementing international drug control treaties.

He said that laudable action plans adopted by the General Assembly should not detract from essential treaty functions. The Board was concerned about drug control situations in several countries and had been forced to invoke article 14 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and article 19 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, which would ultimately lead to a recommendation to the Council to ban imports of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to those countries. Some of the States in question had improved their drug control measures and cooperation with the Board and it would be for the Council to decide on any further action with respect to a particular situation in a country.

The international community should participate in the public debate on drug abuse and respond to criticism about international drug control activities. The fact that the United Nations had not succeeded in eradicating drug abuse should not lead to the lowering of standards. The fundamental human rights enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations also extended to the right to be free of and protected from drug abuse, an issue of particular relevance for young people.

Virtually all States had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, thereby committing themselves, inter alia, to protecting children from drug abuse, production and distribution. Drug abuse was not a victimless crime and caused serious harm to individuals and societies. Drug control policies should not, however, infringe human rights or the rule of law but should strike a balance between repression and permissiveness.

The Board had now instituted an internal procedure, in accordance with article 9 of the 1961 Convention, to guarantee the impartiality and disinterestedness of its members, enhancing its credibility and autonomy.

Ms. OGATA (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), introducing the report of her agency (UNHCR)(E/1998/7) said that the nature of displacement was undergoing significant changes. In addition to refugees, the Office had begun to deal with increasing numbers of internally displaced persons, as the number of internal conflicts had grown. That situation called for advanced security measures and the development of a ladder of options. Host Governments bore primary responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in and around refugee camps, and States should be encouraged and assisted in assuming that responsibility. Local capacity-building with an emphasis on prevention was an essential element of any strategy in that area. In more extreme situations, the Office would like to establish with Governments stand-by arrangements for security support, in coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Insecurity in the context of humanitarian operations had an impact on staff safety. A staff member of UNHCR, Vincent Cochetel, was still captivity six months after his abduction, despite all the diplomatic efforts of the Russian and United Nations authorities. His was not an isolated case, unfortunately; it was part of a pattern of deliberate abduction and killings of humanitarian aid workers which had emerged since 1992. She was worried and anguished by the fact that humanitarian staff were working in a less than secure environment. The issue of staff safety must be addressed with vigour and determination. It was encouraging that the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which had adopted the Statute of the International Criminal Court had included violent acts against humanitarian personnel as a war crime.

Another issue currently of concern to her Office was the sustainability of refugee return, an issue which had been brought to the fore by massive repatriation movements to countries which remained deeply divided after conflict, for example, Rwanda or Bosnia and Herzegovina. A comprehensive approach bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development was essential both to achieve reintegration and to help prevent further displacement.

Turning to operational developments, during her extensive travel to Africa

in the past year, she had co-chaired a regional ministerial meeting in Central Africa which had focused on the need to reconcile refugee protection principles with the legitimate security concerns of States. Reintegration of refugees and rehabilitation in refugee-impacted areas were also discussed. Follow-up to that meeting was focusing on more effective protection for refugees, security mechanisms to ensure the civilian and neutral character of camps, and ways to bridge the gap between relief and reconstruction in post-conflict situations. The critical financial situation of UNHCR operations in the Great Lakes region was of deep concern, and its activities in Rwanda were at risk. Crucial activities in the areas of reintegration and reconciliation were not being implemented as planned which carried the danger of a lapse back into instability and a recurrence of displacement.

In West Africa, the hostilities in Sierra Leone had had devastating humanitarian consequences, with well over half a million people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. The humanitarian operation had improved the situation, and if the response to funding needs was adequate and no substantial influx took place, UNHCR should be able to cope with their needs until repatriation became possible. As for repatriation to Liberia, the main constraints were limited absorption capacity inside the country and inadequate transport capacity outside the country. However, up to 53,000 persons had returned in a voluntary repatriation programme since December 1997, and Government census figures indicated that an additional 180,000 had returned spontaneously. The situation in Guinea-Bissau was also a cause for concern, and unless the peace talks were successful, a resumption of conflict could result in a major refugee outflow. The situations in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau showed the importance of a clear regional strategy on refugee issues and post-conflict situations in West Africa.

In the territory of Western Sahara, the Office was proceeding with preparations for the repatriation of Sahrawi refugees as provided for in the settlement plan, but it still faced a number of difficulties, including the formalization of its presence in the territory. On a more positive note, the repatriation of some 135,000 refugees to Mali and Niger had recently been completed, marking the end of a displacement situation which had persisted for four years. Further efforts would focus on ensuring successful reintegration. In the Horn of Africa, the repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from the Sudan and

registration for repatriation of Eritrean refugees had been completed. Recent episodes of insecurity in the region, however, could negatively affect such plans. Insecurity was also affecting Angola, which was worrying given the generally encouraging trend towards peace and stability. The deterioration of the situation since March had led to temporary relocation of staff and suspension of the voluntary repatriation programme.

In recent months, UNHCR and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had signed tripartite Memoranda of Understanding with Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi in order to deal with the cases of refugees moving to and from those countries, and, whenever possible, their repatriation. The provisions of the general Memorandum of Understanding just signed between UNHCR and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, defining a clearer framework of cooperation with the Government, must be implemented as soon as possible.

Turning to Europe, she noted that the situation in Kosovo was deteriorating. UNHCR had strengthened its presence on the ground, and the humanitarian response thus far had been adequate, although access inside Kosovo and the prevailing insecurity in northern Albania constituted major challenges. While UNHCR and its partners stood ready to help victims, however, firm political action was urgently needed to resolve the crisis. More than 1.8 million people were still displaced in the region as a whole.

After reviewing developments in Georgia, South-East Asia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Afghanistan and Central America, she noted that, while no major refugee outflow had occurred in the past year, UNHCR had faced a large number of smaller emergencies. During the past 12 months, over 50 emergency missions had been dispatched to 11 different operations around the world. It was therefore of paramount importance that the preparedness capacity developed in the early 1990s should be maintained. Resources to carry out its responsibilities were essential, and UNHCR continued to be an organization which donors considered worth supporting. It had streamlined its activities wherever possible and had undertaken painful cost-cutting exercises in staffing and programmes. It was for States to find the political impetus necessary to forge solutions to refugee problems. Over 22 million of the world's refugees and dispossessed people counted on that support.

Mr. ARDA (Turkey) said that the report of the INSTRAW Board of

Trustees (E/1998/46) had painted a very gloomy picture of the Institute's crisis. In previous years, talk of merging the Institute with another United Nations development fund had only served to make the situation worse by discouraging contributions from donors. There were those who criticized INSTRAW, blaming its shortcomings on its location, the quality of its output and other factors. However, the problem was not location, but lack of political and financial support. For its part, his Government had increased the level of its voluntary contributions and hoped that INSTRAW would justify that action by taking steps to ensure the Institute's viability.

Mr. HANNESSON (Iceland) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. TAKAHASHI (Japan) said that any plan of action on drugs, imprisonment and alternative sentencing, as part of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, should include careful consideration of the variety of punishments and sentencing policies that existed in different countries. There was a need to strike a balance between oppressive measures to deal with drug-related offences and those for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug-abusing offenders.

Ms. MONROY (Mexico) expressed her Government's gratitude for the work done by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in accordance with resolution 51/64, as the preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which had been devoted to the world drug problem. The session had been a democratic and responsible exercise, resulting in the adoption by consensus of a Political Declaration and a Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

Successful follow-up and implementation of the commitments undertaken at the session would ensure the realization of the goals set for the years 2003 and 2008, particularly with regard to the creation of a drug-free society. Her delegation was encouraged to note the speedy action taken by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in convening an informal meeting of experts to examine ways of implementing the guiding principles of drug demand reduction. It hoped that the next session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 1999 would produce a plan of action on that topic, since demand was a central element in the drugs chain and therefore in drugs control. The same kind of attention should be paid to programmes for demand reduction as was paid to those

for reduction of supply, alternative development and the fight against illicit drug trafficking. It was vital that such activities were directed in a balanced way at different geographical zones.

Her delegation was concerned about the lack of adequate fundings for implementation of the original plans of action included in the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, as noted by the Secretary-General (A/53/129-E/1998/58, para. 3), and about the fact that additional plans of action were nevertheless being proposed.

Mr. GARCIA GONZALEZ (El Salvador) expressed his delegation's full support for the valuable contribution INSTRAW was making to women's advancement. INSTRAW should, inter alia, review and further develop its new conceptual framework for the advancement of women and gender equality problems; engage in a process of modernization and identify alternative sources of funds.

With regard to the INSTRAW strategy for the new millennium, his delegation believed that the focus on the advancement of women, perceived as the process of emancipation and gender equality, would complement international activities on behalf of women, together with the commitments contained in the Beijing Platform for Action. The strategy would facilitate truly effective action, taking account of the impact of local and national measures for the advancement of women. The new strategy might lead to fresh efforts by States to promote gender equity at the national level, integrating it into policies on cross-cutting themes such as poverty reduction. There was also a need for greater social investment in issues that affected both men and women, notably, education, health and productive employment.

The Government of El Salvador was fully aware of the fact that a gender-equity based development strategy relied on both economic and cultural integration. The elimination of gender inequity represented a major challenge to be met through activities aimed at men, women, young persons and children. El Salvador's National Plan for Women for the period 1997-1999 incorporated all the elements required to meet that challenge.

Ms. ANDAYANI (Observer for Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she was concerned about the Institute's financial situation, which diminished its capacity to implement programmes and research on issues of importance to women. The recommendations of the INSTRAW ad hoc working group, which were listed in paragraph 96 of the report, should help to

increase the Institute's resource base, but further measures were needed to ensure the effective functioning of INSTRAW. For example, without compromising its autonomous status, INSTRAW could enhance its performance through increased cooperation with other United Nations bodies that carried out related activities. The proposed upgrading of its New York Liaison Office would facilitate such cooperation and would help to give INSTRAW a higher profile and to inform the donor community of its work. Many developing countries contributed to the INSTRAW Trust Fund; she encouraged developed countries to follow suit.

Ms. WÖRGETTER (Observer for Austria), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, although she was concerned about the Institute's insufficient resource base, she was equally concerned about its productivity. The Director and the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW, together with Member States and the ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, should collaborate in helping INSTRAW formulate a comprehensive strategic work plan. She agreed that the Institute's donor base must be broadened. With respect to staffing, she asked how soon the forthcoming vacancy in the Liaison Office would be filled.

Ms. ALVAREZ (Observer for the Dominican Republic) said that decisive and determined action was needed to help INSTRAW resolve its financial problems and work effectively for the advancement of women, particularly in developing countries. The Dominican Republic continued to commit financial resources to the Institute and appealed to other donors to do likewise.

Ms. MALDONADO RISS (Observer for Bolivia) expressed her country's full support for INSTRAW, as the only inter-governmental body to undertake research and training for the advancement of women. The lack of adequate funding for programme implementation effectively denied Member States the services they required from INSTRAW. It was therefore in the interests of all Member States to see that those funds were forthcoming.

Ms. ASHTON (President of the Board of Trustees, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) said that the Board was profoundly concerned about the inadequate financial and human resources available to INSTRAW and would continue to coordinate with the Director of the Institute in seeking new donors. Despite INSTRAW's best efforts, nothing positive could be achieved without the support of Member States. Member States

should carefully analyse INSTRAW's current predicament and help it to submit proposals for its revitalization to the Council in February 1999.

Ms. ERTÜRK (Director, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) said that she felt very encouraged by the expressions of support, confirming the need to strengthen the Institute. The time had come to follow up words with actions.

The current P-4 vacancy at the Liaison Office in New York had not yet been advertised, because a decision was pending on proposed changes to the configuration of that Office and the post. If funds were forthcoming at the pledging conference in November 1998, the recruitment for the P-5 and P-4 vacancies would be completed.

Activities to enhance the visibility of the Institute had focused on the quality and relevance of outputs, although the size of the budget and the nature of research itself precluded spectacular results in the short term. The Institute was awaiting decisions on extrabudgetary project proposals submitted to donor States. Without incurring additional costs, it had called, through the INTERNET, for the submission of papers on older persons, in order to put together a book on the subject by 1999. It would contribute, too, to the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, particularly the chapter on migration issues.

INSTRAW made extensive use of electronic communications to expand its outreach, although its access remained limited. It worked through its Liaison Office and in collaboration with other agencies to integrate its work and enhance its visibility at the system level. However, the Council should remember that there were only three persons currently on the INSTRAW staff. Whatever model was adopted for its future development, the Institute could not succeed without additional support.

Mr. SYCHOU (Belarus), Vice President, took the Chair.

Ms. LUBIN (International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres), after commending the work of the Commission for Social Development for its work in developing social indicators for use in the five-year review of the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, said that adequate food, appropriate shelter, care for children and the elderly and social-psychological support constituted the foundation of a healthy and educated society and deserved equal treatment with health and education in a United Nations social

development policy. She urged the Council to allow the non-governmental organizations concerned to play a role in interpreting local needs and desires to the intergovernmental and inter-agency groups responsible for formulating those policies. She also stressed the importance of keeping social issues at the forefront of the debate on the implementation of the commitments made at United Nations conferences and on the planning of future actions.

Ms. SKELTON (International Movement ATD Fourth World) said that enabling the most disadvantaged to play a useful role in society, as called for in the agreed conclusions on promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons (Commission for Social Development resolution 36/1), depended on whether those people could broadly participate in the process or whether only the most dynamic among them could join in. Her organization was concerned by the current stress on furthering social development by fostering a favourable economic environment and by expanding employment and microcredit programmes, which benefited only the upper and middle levels of the poor. The Commission should be asked to explore solutions for those trapped in extreme poverty and to ensure that microcredit programmes were accompanied by complementary programmes in education and health.

Ms. DAS (International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)), speaking also on behalf of the Global Policy Forum, said that, although support for various forms of global taxation had been growing in response to the need to generate new and innovative sources of development funding, ISMUN noted with deep concern that the separate agenda item on new and innovative funding mechanisms had disappeared entirely from the Council's agenda for 1998, despite a mandate from the World Summit for Social Development and the Council's own willingness to deal with the matter. There was an ever-greater need for strong global institutions, which alone could address the great challenges facing the world. In preparation for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development and for a possible United Nations world conference on financing for development, the Council should resume its active consideration of new and innovative funding mechanisms.

Ms. von ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)) said that the downward trends of production, incomes and employment resulting from the financial crisis in Asia and the implications of those trends for social and political stability were a cause for grave concern. In its

recent statement on building recovery in Asia, the Asian and Pacific Regional Organization of ICFTU had proposed a Social Action Plan for Asia entailing the creation of national tripartite councils to reach agreement on social assistance and job-creation programmes to prevent laid-off workers from falling into long-term unemployment and poverty. It had also urged the establishment of an international commission to examine institutional and policy changes needed for the regulation of international financial markets. The proposals had been presented to the governing bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, whose willingness to consider social aspects and the involvement of trade unions was most welcome. In conclusion, he said that the time had come for a positive international strategy for reconstruction.

Mr. GABOURY (World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)) said that his organization viewed with concern the deteriorating economic situation and its serious social consequences, which were exemplified by the situation in South-East Asia. The current emphasis on deregulation, privatization and a reduced role for the State sector was totally misplaced and could only invite a repetition of the crisis of the 1930s. The liberalization measures which were forcing developing and least developed countries into unequal competition with transnational corporations were of particular concern. WFTU called for a review of the policies that continued to place the burden of the world's economic crisis on the backs of working people and for the full implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action agreed to at the World Summit for Social Development. It also called for work to resume on a code of conduct governing the activities of transnational corporations.

Ms. FREY-WOUTERS (International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS)) said that an estimated 300 million people were suffering from mental and neurological disorders, and over 40 million refugees and internally displaced persons suffered depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and other forms of mental distress. Approximately 80 per cent of the world's traumatized and mentally disabled population lived in developing countries.

General Assembly resolution 46/119 recognized the need for all people to attain full mental health, and subsequent instruments recognized that mentally disabled persons should enjoy a decent life in conditions that ensured dignity and promoted self-reliance. The contributions of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees and other entities of the United Nations system had been well documented, and recent international conferences had confirmed the commitment of all Member States to the full realization of the highest attainable standards of mental health. Accordingly, ISTSS called for the expansion of training programmes for United Nations personnel, improved cooperation among agencies, strengthening of emergency-preparedness at all levels, and the provision of more services to traumatized help-givers, including United Nations personnel in the field. A major initiative to upgrade the quality of mental health services in the world would be possible only through the strengthening of partnerships within the United Nations system and with non-governmental organizations.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1998/27 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions I to IV contained in Chapter I, section B, of the report.

Draft resolution I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution II.

Mr. SHAPIRO (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, said that parts of the draft resolution were unacceptable because they addressed the status of issues that the parties had agreed would be the subject of direct negotiations in the Middle-East peace process. Other language was one-sided, lacked objectivity and would not advance the status or well-being of women in society, the intended beneficiaries of the resolution. Consequently, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution II.

In favour: Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Guyana, India, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint-Lucia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet-Nam.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Colombia, Iceland.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 40 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.*

Draft resolutions III and IV were adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft decision contained in chapter I, section C, of the report.

The draft decision was adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development (E/1998/26)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decisions I and II contained in chapter I, section A, of the report.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1998/30 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions and decisions contained in Chapter I, sections A, B and C, of the report. The programme budget implications of the draft resolutions were contained in annex II to the report.

Draft resolutions I to III contained in chapter I, section A, were adopted.

Draft resolutions I to IX contained in chapter I, section B, were adopted.

Draft decisions I and II contained in chapter I, section C, were adopted.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1998/28)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution and draft decisions contained in chapter I, sections A and B, of the report.

The draft resolution was adopted.

Draft decisions I and II were adopted.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (continued)

(a) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND THE ROLE OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PROMOTING, IN PARTICULAR, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1998/L.20)

---

* The delegations of Jordan, Togo and Tunisia subsequently informed the Council that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

(c) REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (continued) (E/1998/L.19)

The PRESIDENT said that draft resolutions E/1998/L.20 and L.19 had been submitted under sub-items (a) and (c) respectively, by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Roble Olhaye of Djibouti, on the basis of informal consultations.

Draft resolution E/1998/L.20 was adopted.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.